



Newsletter for South West & Channel Islands Region

Number 6: Autumn 2014

Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships.



*Carwen Wynne-Howells,
International Procedural
Consultant and Cherry
Cadwallader, Secretary
of the Diamond
Education Grant with
Regional President
Sue Perry*

Hello Everyone

This is my last Newsletter to you as Regional President. I can't believe how quickly the year has gone and that I have now chaired my last Regional Meeting.

It is a great privilege to lead such an active, positive and supportive Region and I would highly commend the job to anyone who might be interested in thinking of standing for election. We will start the new year, following the SIGBI Conference in Harrogate in November, with a full complement of officers for the year which is excellent news. For information, I have listed them on the right so you can quickly see at a glance who does what.

Kay has been working hard to prepare for her year and I know that you will have excellent speakers.

I make no apology for repeating what I said at our September Regional meeting. As individuals we can achieve little but by working together in Clubs, Regions, Federations and Internationally we can maximise the work we do and the opportunities we provide to change attitudes and expectations of men as well as women. We CAN make a difference. Don't ever doubt that a small group can change the world – that's us!

Best wishes

Sue

Regional Officers & Links

President: Kay Turner

President Elect: Diane Steele

Vice President: Daphne Dowsing

Treasurer: Janet Diffell

Secretary: Audrey Taylor

Membership & Development: Jackie Mosedale

Programme Action Officer: Irene Hocking

Regional Councillor: Wendy Plaice

**Benevolent Fund Representative:
Christine Briggs**

Website Administrator: Anne Brooker

**Next Meeting:
29 November 2014**

**All the year's Regional meetings are held at The Catholic Centre
The Mount, Taunton**

29 NOVEMBER 2014

21 MARCH 2015

20 JUNE 2015 IS THE AGM AND CONFERENCE

at the Cliffhead Hotel, St Austell

9 – 12 JULY 2015 INTERNATIONAL

CONVENTION IN ISTANBUL

19 SEPTEMBER 2015

There will be time for *Membership and Development* at each meeting. All providers of reports have been asked to ensure these are circulated in advance of each meeting (with the opportunity for a brief verbal update at meetings and an opportunity to answer any questions) to enable us to concentrate on speakers and discussion.

Together we CAN make a difference

Message from Regional Programme Action Officer



*Catherine Hannaford,
joint President of SI
St Austell & District
receiving the fun prize
from Irene Hockin*

Of the 126 Programme Focus Report Forms from our region approved in the past year, 23 were from St Austell. The club, therefore, won the fun prize of highest number approved, for the second year running.

I can reveal that SI Bath had the second highest approved at 15, and SI Barnstaple were third highest at 13.

Three clubs in the region had not submitted any forms, although I know that they all had been involved in projects worthy of reporting.

Can I remind you that it is purely from the PFRFs that information used for our reports to the UN are taken, which is why it is so important that the wonderful work that is being carried out is highlighted.

I also need to remind you that the completion of these forms is not the responsibility of the Programme Action Officer in a club, and in fact can be undertaken by any member.

So – please ask your PAO if she is completing the forms, and if she isn't, for whatever reason, ensure that someone is.

Don't keep your work a secret – sharing it will help to secure our consultative status.

Irene Hockin

Proposed Associate Membership

With the Federation Conference little over a month away, I hope that Clubs are looking positively at the Resolution seeking a category of *Associate Membership*. I feel sure that delegates to the September Region meeting will have shared the views expressed when this was discussed.

I continue to feedback members' comments on the Resolution to the Director of Organisational Development in order that the SIGBI Management Board understand concerns. This is good! It shows that we are interested enough to want to secure the future of SIGBI.

New Member Meetings

We are planning New Member meetings at which not so new members will also be welcome.

We are planning a meeting for incoming Club officers in the spring to help diminish any concerns they have about their roles and enable them to enjoy it and not be burdened by it.

Jackie Mosedale

Membership and Development Officer

Future Dates for your Diary

2015 – 2016

21 November 2015 Regional Meeting

12 March 2016 Regional Meeting

Regional AGM: 25 June 2016

24 September 2016 Regional Meeting

Message from President Elect

At the time of writing, my emotions range from excitement one moment to trepidation the next! I cannot believe that Sue's year is almost at an end and mine is about to start. An officers' meeting has been scheduled on the 18th October where the regional council will discuss the coming year, look at our Regional Development Plan, and consider ideas and issues pertinent to our region and members alike.

The forthcoming conference, of course, will be very special to me and I look forward to seeing you there, enjoying this unique event in our Soroptimist diary. For anyone who is unable to get to Harrogate, it will be well reported on at our first regional meeting for 2014/15 at Taunton on November 29th, as well as presentations from the 100womenbookproject and Shelterbox. As the resolution for associate membership goes to conference, to hopefully maintain and secure our membership, we acknowledge that our Soroptimist work must continue, to educate, empower and to enable women to look forward to a safer life, a better tomorrow and a sustainable future.

Kay Turner

Women's rights are *Human Rights*. Don't ever doubt that a small group can change the world – that's us!